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SENATOR KIEL: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to this bill. I have served, for the past four years, as Vice Chair of the Excellence in Education Council, which disperses the minigrants and major grants. And I want to tell you a little bit about what I see as a contradiction in this bill with the original intent of the legislation which created this fund. First of all, the minigrant was created in order to give funding to schools to do planning process. Most schools these days, most school districts don't have that money in their budget to do planning. So this was intended, first of all, to encourage and help school districts to be able to do a plan for the twenty-first century. Secondly, the major grant portion of the original legislation does not have a ceiling, it does not have a floor. You can apply for as little money as you want, or as much money as you want. Most school districts choose to apply for as much money as they want. But there's no language in the original legislation that says that you cannot apply for \$5,000 under the major grant application. One of the serious flaws that I see with this bill is that it would allow school districts to access money without having any plan. It is, in my estimation, a can-too, going to the bank for a loan for your business and then telling the bank, well, you didn't think that you needed to have any kind of a business plan in order to get the money. I believe school districts need to be able to have a plan in place in order to apply for major grant money. There probably is a serious question as to what this workshop was that this teacher originally attended. I think probably there's a difference of opinion as to what actually happened here. Within the minigrant application process you indicate what it would be that you would like to do as a school district to help you go through the planning process. If you wish to attend a workshop, in conjunction with a number of other school districts, you are allowed to do that. And I believe that's what this school district chose to do. I would please ask the members of the Legislature not to advance this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Kiel. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I just have a couple of quick questions that I'd like